

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SCCT-01 IO-11 SAM-01 SAB-01

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:BH

APPROVED BY NEA:ARDBY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 061178

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: DAMASCUS 1434

1. WE AGREE WITH YOU THAT A SLIGHT DELAY IN TALKING OVER
THE LEBANESE SITUATION WITH GENERAL SHIHABI IS PRUDENT.
WE HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT YOU CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM ON
SUNDAY SINCE WE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE THE SYRIAN PERSPECTIVE
ON NOT ONLY THE TAKEOVER BUT ALSO ON THE PRESENT AND PRO-
BABLE FUTURE POSITION OF LT. KHATIB'S SO-CALLED LEBANESE
ARAB ARMY AND OTHER DISSIDENT FORCES. WE ARE PARTICULARLY

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CONCERNED ABOUT SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, GIVEN

PROXIMITY OF ISRAELI BORDER, AND WILL LIKELY WANT TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS THERE, AS WELL AS GENERALLY IN LEBANON, WITH ISRAELIS. MOST THOROUGH POSSIBLE READING FROM SYRIANS WOULD BE HELPFUL IN PREPARATION FOR SUCH DISCUSSION.

2. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SYRIAN EVALUATION OF DEGREE OF CONTROL THEY CAN EXERCISE ON DISSIDENT ELEMENTS, ESPECIALLY, AGAIN, IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WHERE THE EXERCISE OF CONTROL BY SYRIA PRESENTS ITS OWN PROBLEMS VIS-A-VIS ISRAELIS. HOW DO SYRIANS SEE THEIR OPTIONS IF MILITARY TAKEOVER HOLDS, OR MORE PARTICULARLY IF IT DOES NOT.
INGERSOLL

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NNN

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